



**CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

2013

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

MAHOGANY RIDGE SHEEP ALLOTMENT

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

PERMIT INFORMATION

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
Todd Mickelsen	June 16 th to August 30 th .	1000 ewes/lambs 2 Horses

All sheep must be your own livestock.

The following brand is permitted on the allotment:



GRAZING SCHEDULE

Begin the grazing season by trucking the sheep to the South Fork of Fall Creek to enter the allotment.

The grazing sequence for 2013 is:

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>
Graze 1st	Rash Canyon
Graze 2nd	Lower South Fork
Graze 3rd	Upper South Fork
Rest	Three Knolls

At the end of the grazing season a portable corral may be set up at Calf Hollow to ship lambs and truck the ewes off the allotment. You will be allowed to keep the sheep at the corral no more than two nights. The ewes are to be trucked off of the Forest the day after the lambs are shipped. Sheep from both this allotment and the Point Lookout Allotment will be allowed to use the lower

end of the Lower South Fork Unit at shipping time. Be sure to leave an area for this use when you move through the unit earlier in the season.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Cattle trespass was a problem on the Three Knolls Unit last season. We have discussed this issue with the neighboring cattlemen and have come up with solutions to this problem. We need to discuss guard dog management with you at the spring meeting. The Rash Canyon Trail was reworked last season. If the trail cat is available the trail crew will start work on the willow springs trail this summer.

PROPER USE CRITERIA

These utilization guidelines apply to native and desirable nonnative vegetation as recorded at the end of the grazing period.

The following rates for forage utilization apply to the total amount of forage utilized. The use rates include wildlife grazing as well as domestic livestock. Once proper use of the forage is met the sheep will be moved to the next unit or off of the allotment. The standard for use of shrubs on the south side of the South Fork of Fall Creek is more restrictive to protect big game winter range.

Upland Forage Utilization

<u>Vegetation type</u>	<u>Percent Utilization</u>
Herbaceous vegetation including grasses	55%
Shrubs on south side of the South Fork of Fall Creek	15%
Shrubs on the remainder of the allotment	35%

Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height

Riparian Shrubs (current year's growth) 30%.

A four inch (4") stubble height will be applied to key species along the Hydric Greenline (HGL) and a three inch (3") stubble height will be applied to key species in the Aquatic Influence Zones (AIZ).

Herdin

When grazing, allow the sheep to spread out and avoid excessive use of dogs to herd the sheep especially on the steep slopes of the allotment. Sheep will not be allowed to shade up along stream banks. After they have watered, the sheep will be eased away from the water to shade. Bringing sheep to water either early or late in the day seems to have less impact on streams than when the sheep come to water during the hot part of the day, as they tend to shade up along the streams. Bed grounds will be used only one night during the grazing season. Move the sheep to a new bed ground each night. Do not bed sheep on system roads, trails, or in riparian areas.

Salting

No salt will be placed within ¼ mile of water, or as far from water as practical. Also salt will not be placed next to roadways or forest system trails. Utilize areas where salt grounds will create the least impact on the land.

Camps

Herder camps should be located at least 50 feet from the trails if possible. Low impact camping techniques will be used such as: picketing or highlining any stock that will remain tied for long periods of time, using existing fire rings or removing sod from a new fire ring and replacing it before you leave, caching tent poles cut from native trees to use another year. Picket lines will be of a length so not to allow pack and saddle stock to cross roads or trails. Fires will be extinguished when not attended. Pack out all trash from your sheep camps including any trash that is left from previous years or items left by other campers. Keep camps clean while they are occupied.

Disposal of Dead Livestock

Dead livestock need to be moved at least 100 feet from system roads and trails, and water sources.

Range Improvements

The two water developments on this allotment will be maintained annually.

Allotment Monitoring

During management of the allotment this summer we would like you to document dates and livestock numbers as you enter and exit the various units. Also stubble height should be recorded as the livestock leave the units and general remarks pertaining to management of the unit. If you have a camera it would be good to take pictures. Photos should be taken of key areas of the unit at the time the livestock enter the unit and then again at the same locations at the time the livestock leave the unit.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Motorized Access

The Palisades Ranger District is closed to cross country motorized travel. Adhere to the travel plan while managing your sheep on the allotment. Motorized vehicles are only allowed on the designated roads and trails.

Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds on the District this summer. Continue to look for new weed infestations on your allotment. Any hay or straw entering the National Forest must be certified "Weed Free".

Wolf Management

You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. To receive the latest information on wolf management you can contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Any problems with wolves will be reported to Wildlife Services as well as Palisades Ranger District as soon as possible.

Fire

All wildfires on the allotment will be evaluated and the appropriate management actions will be taken. Some wildfires may be managed to improve forest and ecosystem health. You will be notified if fires are being managed for resource benefits near your allotment.

INFORMATION

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions, information and contact numbers relating to wolf depredations and an Actual Use Record. Keep the record current with allotment information and return it to us at the end of the grazing season.

This Annual Operating Instruction document is part of your Term Grazing Permit. If a situation develops that requires a change to this plan contact the District Ranger and obtain approval prior to initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. If you have any questions about the plan or the allotment in general, contact us. The phone number for the Idaho Falls Office is 523-1412.

These instructions have been reviewed by the permittee and the Palisades Ranger District and in combination with the permit and Allotment Management Plan will direct management for this allotment for the 2013 grazing season.

/s/ Todd Mickelsen
Permittee

3/21/2013
Date

/s/ Tracy Hollingshead
TRACY HOLLINGSHEAD
District Ranger

3/21/2013
Date